

"I love this class. It keeps me writing and thinking," said Nena Van Voorhis, who urged her husband to join her.

Reluctantly Lee Van Voorhis went to the class, taught by Gloria Goostray, and in a short time found the class to be an exciting thing.

"This class is fantastic. You realize you have a mind that's full of ideas," he explained. Van Voorhis had finally found a way of putting into words his thoughts about that question posed to him six decades ago.

"I have always loved the Robert Frost poem, 'The Road Not Taken,'" said Van Voorhis.

"We all pray for peace," explained Van Voorhis, "but the road to peace, like I described here, you have to work at it. I mean a very specific effort as much as you have to work on your defenses."

Nena and Lee Van Voorhis are the parents of four, three sons and one daughter, and the grandparents of 12.

Following is an essay Van Voorhis wrote for the class that is included in a book called "Writings from the Heart," a collection of short stories published by the 2007-2008 Creative Writing Class.

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

(By Robert Frost)

"I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."

So it has been through human history the most traveled road has been the road to war. Every nation carefully records all its wars and usually marks them with various memorials, statues, and honors for all the veterans.

The road less traveled leads to peace. This is desired by everyone worldwide. We all want to raise our children in peace. Going on the road to war is easy. My country is right and your country is doing something wrong or starting open conflict in some disputed area then the threatening words start escalating. Each side putting out aggressive words like "you need to be punished" or "face sanctions" or calling them "an axis of evil." Our people hate you and you hate us. Now each country believes the other country is evil and we must settle our differences with war.

"The road less traveled by" is the road to peace. This improves your communication with other countries, then we better understand the real root of each other's concerns and will be more compassionate and try to find common ground for peaceful solutions. Going on the road to war means we immediately start thinking of our military defenses and start cutting communications with the country we disagree with.

Ping-pong games opened China for President Nixon. The N.Y. Philharmonic's visit to N. Korea gave us the opportunity to try to negotiate with N. Korea. As Robert Frost said about the road taken, "I, I took the one less traveled by and that has made all the difference."

We must think of every possible way to improve our communication with the countries we have problems with. How about such things as starting a worldwide Art Olympics in which there would be various themes either taking or on the road to peace with various categories for children and adults?

To stimulate these ideas helping peace, how about a Secretary of Peace in our President's cabinet, charged with nothing but encouraging ideas and actions for peace. (The Secretary of State's job is charged with protecting American interests, and official dealings with foreign countries only.)

As Robert Frost said about having taken the road less traveled "and that has made all the difference."

So let's go for the road less traveled—Peace will make all the difference.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNITED PARCEL SERVICE LEADING THE NATION IN UNITED WAY DONATIONS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate United Parcel Service (UPS) and its employees for its generosity.

For the past nine years, UPS has consecutively led the nation in donations to United Way. This year's annual campaign raised over \$53 million for United Way and with a matching contribution by the UPS Foundation, the total is expected to exceed \$60 million—more than any other participating company. In total, over the past twenty-five years UPS has contributed over \$924 million to United Way. Their charity extended beyond their financial contributions. Employees gave generously of their time with over 900,000 hours of community service through the Global Volunteer Month and UPS's Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. The emphasis on philanthropy and improving local communities through its partnership with United Way can be seen at all levels of the organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to UPS on this remarkable achievement and for their commitment to helping others.

INTRODUCING WE THE PEOPLE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the We the People Act. The We the People Act forbids federal courts, including the Supreme Court, from adjudicating cases concerning State laws and policies relating to religious liberties or "privacy," including cases involving sexual practices, sexual orientation or reproduction. The We the People Act also protects the traditional definition of marriage from judicial activism by ensuring the Supreme Court cannot abuse the equal protection clause to redefine marriage. In order to hold Federal judges accountable for abusing their powers, the act also provides that a judge who violates the act's limitations on judicial power shall either be impeached by Congress or removed by the President, according to rules established by the Congress.

The United States Constitution gives Congress the authority to establish and limit the jurisdiction of the lower Federal courts and limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The Founders intended Congress to use this authority to correct abuses of power by the Federal judiciary.

Some may claim that an activist judiciary that strikes down State laws at will expands individual liberty. Proponents of this claim overlook the fact that the best guarantor of

true liberty is decentralized political institutions, while the greatest threat to liberty is concentrated power. This is why the Constitution carefully limits the power of the Federal Government over the States.

In recent years, we have seen numerous abuses of power by Federal courts. Federal judges regularly strike down State and local laws on subjects such as religious liberty, sexual orientation, family relations, education, and abortion. This government by Federal judiciary causes a virtual nullification of the Tenth Amendment's limitations on Federal power. Furthermore, when Federal judges impose their preferred policies on State and local governments, instead of respecting the policies adopted by those elected by, and thus accountable to, the people, republican government is threatened. Article IV, section 4 of the United States Constitution guarantees each State a republican form of government. Thus, Congress must act when the executive or judicial branch threatens the republican governments of the individual States. Therefore, Congress has a responsibility to stop Federal judges from running roughshod over State and local laws. The Founders would certainly have supported congressional action to reign in Federal judges who tell citizens where they can and can't place manger scenes at Christmas.

Madam Speaker, even some supporters of liberalized abortion laws have admitted that the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, which overturned the abortion laws of all 50 States, is flawed. The Supreme Court's establishment clause jurisdiction has also drawn criticism from across the political spectrum. Perhaps more importantly, attempts to resolve, by judicial fiat, important issues like abortion and the expression of religious belief in the public square increase social strife and conflict. The only way to resolve controversial social issues like abortion and school prayer is to restore respect for the right of State and local governments to adopt policies that reflect the beliefs of the citizens of those jurisdictions. I would remind my colleagues and the Federal judiciary that, under our constitutional system, there is no reason why the people of New York and the people of Texas should have the same policies regarding issues such as marriage and school prayer.

Unless Congress acts, a State's authority to define and regulate marriage may be the next victim of activist judges. After all, such a decision would simply take the Supreme Court's decision in the *Lawrence* case, which overturned all State sodomy laws, to its logical conclusion. Congress must launch a preemptive strike against any further Federal usurpation of the States' authority to regulate marriage by removing issues concerning the definition of marriage from the jurisdiction of Federal courts.

Although marriage is licensed and otherwise regulated by the States, government did not create the institution of marriage. Government regulation of marriage is based on State recognition of the practices and customs formulated by private individuals interacting in civil institutions, such as churches and synagogues. Having Federal officials, whether judges, bureaucrats, or congressmen, impose a new definition of marriage on the people is an act of social engineering profoundly hostile to liberty.